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1 BETHEL LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
2 BOARD OF EDUCATION
3 MEETING MINUTES
4 (EXCERPTS)

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6 FEBRUARY 14, 2022 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

7 * * *

8 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

9 Lydda Mansfield, President
10 Lori Sebastian, Vice President
11 Danny Elam
12 Natalie Donahue
13 Jessica Franz

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1 (Neola - excerpt begins at 1:33 of
2 recording.)

3 MRS. MANSFIELD: And moving on to
4 item 12, Board items, the consideration and
5 development of policies. Okay. Mr. Firks, I know
6 we have some stuff in executive on this.

7 We had a proposal of a policy sent to
8 us by a Board member and we were just going to
9 kind of talk, too, about how policies come to be
10 on Bethel's Board and what the process is for
11 that.

12 So when we want a new policy
13 developed, and what that process is, we work with
14 a company called Neola, the -- they used to be the
15 Northeast Ohio Learning Association or Learning
16 Assistance Company, I believe it is, and their
17 process for their business, what they do is they
18 coordinate about 400 policies that we have.

19 They're responsible for making sure
20 that those policies talk to each other well and
21 that a policy doesn't contradict another policy
22 and that they're kept up-to-date when the laws
23 change, when the case law changes, when statutes
24 change, federally and at the state, things like
25 that.

1 So we consult with them twice
2 annually. Mr. Firks has a meeting coming up
3 actually with our representative, Norm Burkhardt,
4 this week, actually. He's due for his first
5 update of 2022.

6 And so we rely on them quite heavily
7 for those updates, as do most districts. They
8 work with actually six states I believe now but
9 they're really heavily relied on in the state.

10 One of the other partners you could
11 go to and contract with this is the OSBA, the Ohio
12 School Board Association. There are some other
13 businesses around that do those sorts of things,
14 but Neola is our choice. We've used them for a
15 great many number of years.

16 So when we say, hey, we notice this
17 policy doesn't feel right or we've heard it needs
18 to be changed, we may call Norm up and say, I know
19 it's not time for our annual update, but we want
20 to tweak this or we feel like it needs to be
21 changed, what are your thoughts.

22 We can kind of contact him in the
23 middle of the year, but often he's already hit us
24 with that update or he's already emailed and said,
25 hey, this is changing, I'll get with you soon. So

1 he's pretty on top of things for us.

2 If in the course of that he doesn't
3 touch us on -- with a policy that we feel needs to
4 be updated, we can send him a policy, and we've
5 done that with the one that a Board member sent us
6 recently, and say, hey, this is one we'd like to
7 propose.

8 We would like to go have this added,
9 do you have something that's similar to this that
10 we can look at, some language that you may
11 recommend that's been run through your staff and
12 your attorneys that are the experts on this stuff
13 or -- or not, what are your thoughts, and he will
14 come back to us with either some recommended
15 language that they do support and therefore give
16 us legal backing for and that works well and
17 meshes well with our existing policies or he may
18 come back and say, we don't have anything for
19 that.

20 You're free to go to your attorneys
21 and get that reviewed, but just remember that if
22 you decide to adopt that policy, we're not going
23 to stand behind that policy should you choose to
24 make that among your policies, and there -- if
25 there's a contradiction with another policy that

1 arises that causes you a legal issue, again, not
2 our problem.

3 So that means that the whole contract
4 we have with them would be null and void in the
5 interest of that particular policy or the
6 conflicts that would arise as a result.

7 So that's just kind of the
8 consideration of development of policies concept
9 that we wanted to like bring to light and have a
10 discussion among our members.

11 So I don't know if any other members
12 have comments, questions. Mr. Firks, if you have
13 anything you want to add to that discussion, have
14 I kind of hit your relationship with Norm pretty
15 well?

16 MR. FIRKS: Yeah. We -- we meet two
17 three, four times a year, depending upon how heavy
18 it is from Columbus on stuff that comes down the
19 pike, and so our first meeting for the '22 school
20 year will be this -- oh, boy, today's Monday --
21 it'll be Wednesday --

22 MRS. MANSFIELD: Yeah.

23 MR. FIRKS: -- Wednesday, and then
24 he'll go over what he's seeing and what -- what
25 recommendations are and then I bring those to you

1 guys and then you have input on those, and we
2 usually do two readings before we --

3 MRS. MANSFIELD: Oh, yeah, I forgot
4 about that.

5 MR. FIRKS: -- we vote on a policy.

6 MRS. MANSFIELD: Yeah.

7 MR. FIRKS: So it's not just a blind
8 approval. You go through them a couple of times
9 and it provides opportunities for Board members to
10 come up with questions, hopefully provide those
11 ahead of time so that I can get them to Norm and
12 then have answers for meetings.

13 MRS. MANSFIELD: Yeah. And it's not
14 like cut-and-dried, either. It's not like this is
15 the only policy you can have about this concept.
16 He'll give us options; he'll say, it feels like
17 for the other policies you have, maybe this
18 version or this language is better that meshes
19 better with yours or here are two or three you can
20 kind of choose from.

21 He does give us some options. It's
22 not like this is the only way or the highway, like
23 we do have some choices that are -- that you guys
24 will discuss or that you may bring to us and say
25 this or this.

1 MR. FIRKS: Uh-hum.

2 MRS. MANSFIELD: And additionally,
3 there are updates that are posted on their -- on
4 our Board docs. We'll have here are the updates
5 that are coming additionally.

6 MR. FIRKS: Yeah.

7 MRS. MANSFIELD: So we know kind of
8 before Mr. Firks goes into that meeting, here are
9 some things that are going to be coming our way
10 that we can look at and be made aware of at the
11 same time.

12 And you know, we also hear from OSBA.
13 We get emails pretty regularly as Board members
14 that the laws are changing, Ohio's about to have a
15 meeting about this, or there's been a federal
16 change.

17 We get pretty -- you guys get a lot
18 of items -- I know I do. You guys get them, too,
19 I assume. I'm not the only one. I know I'm not
20 the only one -- where we know that there are some
21 things that have been changed or that -- that's
22 going to cause a change in our policies, and
23 there's going to be some ripples that come down
24 the pike.

25 So just wanted to have that

1 conversation so that no one feels slighted or no
2 one feels like we're ignoring them when they say
3 that they want a policy put just automatically
4 perhaps brought before the Board or to have a
5 conversation about things, but when we do talk to
6 Norm or when something does go through that
7 process or, you know, what have you, we will then
8 put it on the agenda, we'll have a couple
9 readings, we'll have some conversations about it
10 to let people digest it, really think it through,
11 you know.

12 The difference between a policy and a
13 resolution, resolutions don't require two
14 readings. Resolutions are an opportunity where
15 our attorney has said, I feel like if you want to
16 make a statement about something, you have an
17 opportunity to do a resolution, such as with the
18 annexation. We recently did a resolution about
19 the annexation back in November, October?

20 MR. FIRKS: Uh-hum. Yeah.

21 MRS. MANSFIELD: When was that?

22 MR. FIRKS: It was October, I
23 believe.

24 MRS. MANSFIELD: October? Yeah, and
25 the Board got together and said, you know, we feel

1 strongly that if an annexation were to happen,
2 that they should do something to control like
3 roadways and growth, you know, and possibly the
4 County can help out with that.

5 MR. FIRKS: We did a res -- we did a
6 resolution last school year in support of the Fair
7 School Funding Act.

8 MRS. MANSFIELD: Yeah.

9 MR. FIRKS: We thought it'd have a
10 great impact on Bethel Local Schools --

11 MRS. MANSFIELD: Absolutely.

12 MR. FIRKS: -- in adding some
13 additional revenue to our district from the State
14 of Ohio. We obviously have the right to petition
15 our government to impact change.

16 MRS. MANSFIELD: Uh-hum. Sure.

17 MR. FIRKS: And so we wrote a
18 resolution, sent it off to our local reps and our
19 State reps to say, hey, this is a good thing for
20 Bethel. We would appreciate your support for the
21 Fair School Funding Act.

22 MRS. MANSFIELD: Yeah. So it's kind
23 of a way for the Board to message without -- we're
24 not -- we're not putting out policy, we're putting
25 out messages, and resolutions are more messages

1 than they are policy.

2 That's never the intent with a
3 resolution generally is they're not meant to
4 change our policy, they're meant to signal our
5 feelings about things generally speaking, and we
6 try to keep statute language, you know, legal
7 language, case law, things like that are generally
8 not mentioned in a resolution.

9 We tend to try and keep it more of,
10 you know, the Board feels that whereas this --
11 this -- this situation exists, this situation
12 exists; thereby, the Board asks that.

13 So we may direct Mr. Firk to do
14 something, we may ask that our legislators do
15 something. You know, it's more requests and
16 feelings and position as opposed to actual policy
17 that would be in our policy handbook. So that's
18 the feeling, anyway, or how it's been explained to
19 me.

20 When you speak contemporaneously,
21 sometimes you say things not exactly the way you
22 mean, so I apologize if I didn't say that exactly
23 right, but that's my impression.

24 Anybody have any corrections or
25 tweaks with things like -- you don't feel like I

1 said correctly?

2 So okay. Anything else further under
3 item A or that anybody wants to add? Mrs. Franz,
4 I see you reaching for your mike.

5 MRS. FRANZ: So is this where I have
6 the opportunity to speak on the one resolution?

7 MRS. MANSFIELD: We're moving to item
8 B here in just a second.

9 MRS. FRANZ: Okay.

10 MRS. MANSFIELD: So anything further
11 on development of policies or consideration of
12 policies? Anyone?

13 MRS. FRANZ: What item are we on
14 right now?

15 MRS. MANSFIELD: We're on item 12(A).

16 MRS. FRANZ: 12(A). Okay. Okay. So
17 that is -- that is not what you guys tucked me
18 under? Is that the next item, then, is that what
19 we're saying?

20 MRS. MANSFIELD: So we're about to
21 move -- we're about to move to 12(B) in just a
22 second.

23 MRS. FRANZ: Okay.

24 MRS. MANSFIELD: So anything further
25 under 12(A)?

1 MRS. FRANZ: I don't think so.

2 (Excerpt ends at 1:41:30 of
3 recording.)

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5 (Board resolution - excerpt begins at
6 1:41:31 of recording.)

7 MRS. MANSFIELD: Okay. Moving on to
8 12(B), then, we have a resolution that our
9 attorney has prepared stating that whereas the
10 Board has been advised by its attorneys about the
11 law regarding transgender rights, and it goes on
12 and talks about some of --

13 (Audience member shouting.)

14 MRS. MANSFIELD: -- regarding
15 transgender rights; and whereas the Board's been
16 provided legal analysis regarding these students'
17 rights; and whereas in addition to the legal
18 rights of transgender students, the Board hereby
19 declares that all students shall be guaranteed an
20 educational environment free from discrimination
21 on the basis of sex, including discrimination in
22 the form of sexual harassment and including
23 discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation
24 and gender identity as determined by case law; and
25 whereas the Board maintains the tremendous

1 importance of protecting the privacy of all
2 students and ensuring that all students are
3 treated equally while having equal access to our
4 educational program, now therefore, be it resolved
5 that this Board directs its administrative staff
6 to formalize its guidelines for addressing student
7 identity issues in the following ways:

8 A, consult with the district's Neola
9 representative to verify whether a policy or
10 administrative guideline update specific to
11 transgender student restroom use or gender
12 identity beyond existing antidiscrimination and
13 antiharassment policies is either warranted,
14 recommended, supported, or available.

15 B, post written district protocols
16 currently in practice on district website
17 outlining the mandatory case-by-case meeting
18 regarding gender identity assertion between the
19 administration, parent if student is under 18, and
20 student to take place prior to the implementation
21 of any accommodations to discuss what supports
22 will be implemented.

23 And C, determine at the building
24 level whether there are any necessary or relevant
25 updates needed to student handbooks related to

1 above district protocols or regarding disciplinary
2 actions for any improper usage of restrooms by
3 students who have not adhered to district
4 procedure for gender identity assertion or in
5 cases of harassment of those who have.

6 Be it further resolved that these
7 guidelines be presented to this Board for review
8 and input prior to final publication.

9 So there we have it, and this is on
10 for a motion and a second and a possible vote.

11 (Audience member shouting.)

12 MRS. MANSFIELD: Again, I ask, is
13 there a motion for this resolution or is there --
14 is there discussion?

15 (Audience members shouting.)

16 MRS. MANSFIELD: Mrs. Franz, did you
17 say you had discussion on this item, please?
18 Again, the Board is trying to have a discussion
19 about this item, about their Board business,
20 please. We'll have public discussion after these
21 Board items, please.

22 (Audience members shouting.)

23 MRS. FRANZ: I believe -- I ask that
24 this come after the public discussion.

25 (Audience members shouting and

1 applauding.)

2 MRS. FRANZ: Before we go over this
3 for discussion right now, I'd like to go through,
4 you know, some of the concerns I have with this
5 particular resolution.

6 MRS. MANSFIELD: Sure.

7 MRS. FRANZ: So the -- I would like
8 to point out that we have never been collectively
9 as a Board in executive session with an attorney
10 present to have a discussion on this.

11 Neither have we had legal opinions in
12 hand from the -- the white papers and from the two
13 attorneys that we have retained in the school
14 district until I did request to see those at the
15 February 1st meeting.

16 In a recent discussion I did have
17 with John, one of our retained attorneys, he
18 recommended that we all meet together to get our
19 questions answered and discuss how we'd like to
20 move forward, and he did make a great point that
21 40 percent of the Board wasn't present when
22 initially faced with this issue.

23 So additionally, this decision was
24 unilaterally made by administration, announced by
25 our newly elected Board president on January 10th,

1 again, without the Board ever having the official
2 white paper copy of the opinions in hand.

3 So with this resolution, the been
4 advised in this context of the resolution I just
5 want to clarify means that written legal opinions
6 that the Board has received, okay, so after I
7 asked on February 1st.

8 I also want to point out that case
9 law is not statutory law, and I clarified with the
10 school attorney that there is no existing
11 statutory law, state or federal, that dictates
12 that we must allow a trans-identifying student --

13 (Audience members applauding.)

14 MRS. FRANZ: -- to use the restroom
15 of the sex they identify with, and also,
16 furthermore, he stated that the Bethel School
17 Board could choose to continue operating in the
18 unwritten practical policy of the district, what
19 has been our guiding practice for decades here.

20 So he did say that we had that
21 opportunity and that -- that decision to do that
22 as a Board, and I would also like to just point
23 out the section under B there, that it is -- this
24 asks the question, why are we -- it seems like
25 we're circumventing our responsibility to make a

1 new guiding policy for the district regarding
2 restroom use, and why are we going straight to
3 identifying administrative guidelines? It seems
4 backwards.

5 It's my understanding our
6 administrative guidelines are developed to
7 implement the guiding policies of the district
8 which are created by the Board, and consulting
9 with Neola, we could do that, but the ultimate
10 decision in determining the language of the policy
11 lies with the Board.

12 So -- and I also would like to
13 suggest if we're going to create a policy, you
14 know, getting other policy-making organizations
15 involved, the OSBA, maybe Protect Ohio Children,
16 but honestly, I don't think a policy, a written
17 policy, is needed because the Board could decide
18 to return to the practical policy of the district.
19 We do have that option --

20 (Audience members applauding.)

21 MRS. FRANZ: -- and which already
22 allows for guidelines to separate bathrooms on the
23 basis of sex.

24 (Audience members applauding.)

25 MRS. FRANZ: So those are the

1 comments I have regarding this resolution.

2 MRS. MANSFIELD: Okay. Further
3 comments, please?

4 (Audience members applauding.)

5 MRS. MANSFIELD: Are there further
6 comments from other from other members, please?
7 Okay. So I would just say that I guess in
8 response, that there may not be statutory law but
9 there is case law, and our two attorneys have
10 advised us separately that we must follow case
11 law.

12 (Audience members shouting.)

13 MRS. MANSFIELD: The guidelines that
14 we have to implement -- the guidelines that we are
15 implementing, our administrative guidelines,
16 actually do follow Board policy. We have
17 antiharassment and antidiscrimination policies in
18 our policies already.

19 (Audience members shouting.)

20 MRS. MANSFIELD: And I feel like this
21 is a misspeak actually to say that we can operate
22 in the practical way we have for decades because
23 the -- the case law has changed, and in districts
24 like US District Court, District 6, that Ohio is a
25 part of, has already stated very clearly how the

1 district must operate. Per our attorneys' white
2 papers, which are quite extensive, it says very
3 clearly how we must operate.

4 So that's really -- that's my
5 rebuttal and my response to what we have. We do
6 have policies in place, we do have to obey them.
7 It is the law, and that is what we have to do. So
8 that's what I have to say.

9 MRS. FRANZ: So just so everyone's
10 aware, I did submit a resolution that our
11 attorney, John, did look over line-by-line. He
12 offered some suggestions, most of which I took,
13 and this is kind of a counter-resolution to what
14 was proposed here, and it was -- I don't believe
15 it was added to the agenda, or there may not have
16 been enough time to add it, but I do have it with
17 me here tonight and I could read the
18 counter-resolution and we can have a discussion on
19 that now or later.

20 And again, I just want to reiterate
21 that talking about policy here tonight, this is
22 something we -- we don't really need to have a
23 policy for if the Board makes the decision to
24 return to the practical policy that has been the
25 district, you know, guidelines for decades, and we

1 can make that decision and we can walk back the
2 decision that was made recently.

3 MRS. MANSFIELD: Okay.

4 (Audience members applauding.)

5 MRS. MANSFIELD: So any further
6 comments about this item from any other Board
7 members? Mrs. Donahue?

8 MRS. DONAHUE: I'd just like to ask
9 if we could delay this for another meeting, remove
10 it from the agenda tonight and delay it for --

11 MRS. MANSFIELD: So that was going be
12 my next question actually, like is there going to
13 be a motion and a second on this. Does anyone
14 have a motion or a second?

15 (Audience members shouting.)

16 MRS. MANSFIELD: It's coming. So it
17 does seem clear --

18 (Audience members shouting.)

19 MRS. MANSFIELD: I would like to
20 speak in my meeting, please. It seems clear
21 that -- there goes the gavel.

22 (Audience members cheering.)

23 MRS. MANSFIELD: -- that this
24 resolution is something that needs to be put aside
25 for just a moment.

1 Mrs. Franz, you did ask for an
2 executive session with our attorney this evening;
3 is that correct?

4 MRS. FRANZ: I believe when I talked
5 to him last, he said that he had had a
6 conversation with you and possibly the
7 superintendent on executive session and then I
8 walked in today or yesterday and confirmed that
9 that executive session was going to take place.

10 MRS. MANSFIELD: Okay. So we will do
11 that, we'll proceed with that, and at the moment I
12 see no reason to continue with this particular
13 item on the agenda at the moment. We'll just bail
14 on it pretty much entirely. Let's just scrap it
15 at the moment.

16 (Audience members cheering.)

17 MRS. MANSFIELD: Understanding with
18 that two conflicting resolutions anyway, it just
19 really doesn't make sense at the moment and we'll
20 just move on.

21 (Audience members shouting.)

22 MRS. MANSFIELD: No. It means we're
23 not voting on this particular Board resolution at
24 this time. Yeah. I'm just being clear as well.

25 (Excerpt ends at 1:53 of recording.)

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(Q&A - excerpt begins at 2:01:30 of

recording.)

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MRS. MANSFIELD: Okay. Last item

under Board items for item D is the proposal for a
community town hall Q&A.

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I feel like this is a pretty

essential item that we can do where we can

actually have questions asked regarding the

transgender issue as opposed to, you know, people

making commentary.

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It might be more productive because

you can actually have some experts come in who

would handle any potential cases that might go

forward, have our attorneys here, have actual

questions where even we have questions that maybe

aren't fully answered and vetted.

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We can have the US Attorney General

rep who would handle any cases that would go to

federal court, you could have our own Ohio

Department of Education area rep who would receive

any complaints from any of our transgender

students and our families, maybe a plaintiff's

attorney that would handle a case for those types

of people, possibly an Ohio Office of Civil Rights

1 representative who, again, would be involved in
2 these kinds of cases and put together a panel of
3 experts, people who really, truly, genuinely know
4 how these cases would go, the ins and out and the
5 nuances as opposed to the folks like us, who I
6 don't really know the ins and outs of how that
7 goes, I genuinely don't, and I would like know,
8 and there are questions that I would like to ask
9 and I'm sure that there are members of our
10 community who would, too.

11 So I would like to propose to our
12 Board that we put together a panel like that. It
13 can't happen next week because getting on folks
14 like this' calendar on mutual days might take four
15 to six weeks.

16 It could be, you know, the end of
17 March before something like that could come
18 together, but I think it could be a lot more
19 productive than a lot of the conversations that
20 we've had so far, especially amongst ourselves,
21 and we could get some actual information that
22 could be fruitful.

23 So I don't know how you guys feel,
24 but what are your thoughts? What are your
25 thoughts?

1 MR. ELAM: I agree. I think -- I
2 think -- I know.

3 MRS. MANSFIELD: Do you want this
4 one?

5 MR. ELAM: I agree. I think a
6 town -- a town forum, a community forum, would be
7 a great idea and it -- I think we should run with
8 it.

11 MRS. FRANZ: I don't feel -- I also
12 agree that a -- a community forum is a great idea
13 and I believe that it should have been done from
14 the get-go regarding this decision.

15 (Audience members applauding.)

16 MRS. DONAHUE: I'm in agreement that
17 we plan for something and have a town hall.

18 MRS. MANSFIELD: Okay. Just to be
19 clear, though, like if we were to bring in folks
20 like this, it can't be an opportunity for people
21 to like, you know, just express opinions. It has
22 to be legitimate questions.

23 We want questions asked to get actual
24 answers, so people would have to come with an
25 actual question to ask these folks to get an

1 actual answer, not just to do -- not just to like,
2 you know, give them an opinion. We need to
3 actually solicit questions.

4 So if you were going to come and
5 attend something like that, members of this panel,
6 my Board members, friends here amongst the Board,
7 are you prepared to come with actual questions to
8 get actual answers as opposed to, you know, just
9 an opinion?

10 (Audience members shouting.)

11 MRS. MANSFIELD: I'm sure they
12 understand what the opinions of the community are,
13 these folks, like an attorney general and an ODE
14 rep.

15 (Audience members shouting.)

16 MRS. MANSFIELD: We're about to have
17 that time. I'm discussing with the Board, please.

18 MRS. FRANZ: I'm sorry. Were you
19 posing that question to the Board members?

20 MRS. MANSFIELD: So to the Board
21 members, are you okay with changing our -- we
22 can't -- we wouldn't have the same rules we would
23 have for regular addressing the Board, you know,
24 hearing of the public rules.

25 We would have to develop a different

1 set of guidelines for that because we'd have to be
2 more like a -- you have a certain amount of time
3 to ask a question and then possibly a follow-up
4 question but it can't be the you get five minutes
5 to just say whatever kind of a thing. I don't
6 think that would be as productive.

7 Does that make sense? So --

8 (Audience members shouting.)

9 MRS. MANSFIELD: Sweet. Okay.

10 MRS. FRANZ: I think the community
11 town hall is a great idea and I think my own
12 concern is that we have a wide variety of experts
13 so that we --

14 MRS. MANSFIELD: I'm sorry,
15 Mrs. Franz. I can't hear you. I can't hear you.

16 MRS. FRANZ: I think my only concern
17 is that we do get a -- that we -- in order to
18 fully vet this, that we get all sides of the
19 issue, so I'm interested in having an attorney
20 there that there are different sides there, you're
21 getting different opinions, so that we have our
22 Board attorney there, we have, if he's available,
23 John.

24 We could perhaps have another
25 attorney there that can provide a different

1 perspective on what our responsibility here is at
2 Bethel.

3 I've spoken with three attorneys who
4 have a very different idea of what our obligation
5 is, what -- what we would need to do in the
6 situation, and also, you know, I just want to make
7 sure we're not going to fill the time with a bunch
8 of bureaucracy.

9 (Audience members applauding.)

10 MRS. MANSFIELD: Sure. I don't think
11 it's anyone's intent to fill it with bureaucracy.
12 I don't think so.

13 I would be concerned with too much
14 additional attorneys. Clearly we pay district
15 attorneys. You know, we -- we already pay
16 attorneys to represent the district that were
17 already, you know, attorneys that were here before
18 I came, attorneys that have -- you know, Mr. Firks
19 has worked with them in other districts as well.

20 So I don't want to have nonvetted, I
21 guess, attorneys. I don't want to have too many,
22 but certainly, certainly we could have one
23 attorney that perhaps does not represent the
24 district in addition to --

25 (Audience members shouting.)

1 MRS. MANSFIELD: -- in addition to a
2 plaintiff's attorney, as was suggested, that would
3 be someone who would represent the student and
4 their family should a case be brought. I think
5 that's reasonable to have that side represented as
6 well. Fair?

7 MRS. FRANZ: You mean from both
8 sides? Is that what you're saying? Like from
9 both sides of the issue we would have attorneys
10 represented?

11 MRS. MANSFIELD: Sure.

12 MRS. FRANZ: And if cost is an issue,
13 I would be happy to cover that cost to have an
14 attorney there. So I'm not asking the Board to
15 cover that.

16 (Audience members shouting.)

17 MRS. MANSFIELD: Sure, that's fair.
18 Okay. So it sounds like that's something that
19 everyone's okay with and that I can like start
20 working on putting together and trying to get a
21 date that calendars work for the suggested people
22 that we have.

1 with them, too. Is that great for you?

2 If anyone else has ideas of folks
3 that they would like to include, please also, you
4 know, reach out, and you, too, Mrs. Donahue.

5 Okay? And Mr. Firks as well. Okay?

6 Okay. Great. That's awesome. I'm
7 very excited to have that because I think getting
8 actual answers from people who would actually
9 handle these cases would be so productive. Okay.

10 (Audience members shouting.)

11 (Excerpt ends at 2:09 of recording.)

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1 STATE OF OHIO)

2 COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY) SS: CERTIFICATE

3 I, Caryl L. Blevins, a Notary Public within
4 and for the State of Ohio, duly commissioned and
5 qualified,

6 DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the above-named

7 proceeding was reduced to writing by me

8 stenographically from a recording to the best of
9 my ability and thereafter reduced to typewriting.

10 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative
11 or Attorney of either party, in any manner
12 interested in the event of this action, nor am I,
13 or the court reporting firm with which I am
14 affiliated, under a contract as defined in Civil
15 Rule 28 (D).

16 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set
17 my hand and seal of office at Dayton, Ohio, on
18 this 5th day of December, 2022.

19

20 /s/ Caryl L. Blevins

21 CARYL L. BLEVINS, RPR, CRR

22 NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF OHIO

23 My commission expires 7-16-2023

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